

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

In the Final Office Action dated October 30, 2002, claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,396,356 to Fukuchi (hereinafter Fukuchi).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claim 1. Claims 1-21 remain pending in this application, and claims 1-8 are currently under consideration.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.”**

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fukuchi.

To the extent that the Examiner may consider this rejection to apply to the newly amended claims, the rejection is traversed as being based upon a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the novel combination of features now recited in amended independent claim 1 and hence, dependent claims 2-8.

In the Office Action dated October 30, 2002, the Examiner relies upon Fukuchi for an alleged teaching of a liquid crystal device (LCD) including, amongst other elements, a pair of

substrates, a liquid crystal layer sandwiched between the paired substrates, a seal pattern 19 formed peripherally to the active area, and between the first and second substrates, and an electrode pattern (13d, 14d, 15d) adjacent the seal pattern and outside the active area.

Claim 1, as amended recites a liquid crystal display device combination including “a seal pattern formed peripherally to said active area completely surrounding the electrode pattern, and contacting said first and said second substrate.” Fukuchi does not teach or fairly suggest this newly added feature of the amended claim. Fukuchi at most teaches providing a transparent electrode pattern, which constitutes a dummy or non-driving transparent electrode for controlling the cell gap under the position of the sealing material 19 as shown in FIG. 1 (column 3, lines 16-23). Therefore, Fukuchi provides a dummy electrode under the sealing material and not completely surrounded by the seal pattern as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because Fukuchi does not teach or suggest each feature of independent claim , as amended. MPEP §2143.03 instructs that “[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 409 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974).” Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 2-8 are allowable at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

CONCLUSION

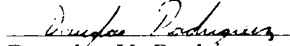
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the entry of this Amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Applicants also request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
 - a first substrate having a common electrode;
 - a second substrate having an active area;
 - an electrode pattern formed on the second substrate;
 - a seal pattern formed peripherally to said active area [~~on~~] **completely surrounding** the electrode pattern, and contacting said first and said second substrate;
 - a liquid crystal layer between said first substrate and said second substrate, and on the active area.